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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8, with the following redlined paragraph:

The sixth table row involves a rule wherein content switching is based on the extensible markup language (XML) tag present in the packet. XML information may be present in the packet in a location different from the HTTP header. An embodiment of a technique to use content switching based on XML content in a packet is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/731,979 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 350078.412)~~, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOAD BALANCING BASED ON XML CONTENT IN A PACKET," filed concurrently herewith on December 10, 2003, *(U.S. pat. pending)* with inventor Anilkumar Gunturu, assigned to the same assignee as the present application, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1, with the following redlined paragraph:

At a block 404, conversion of nested rules into their sum of products or "minterm" representation is performed. In this minterm form, a nested rule is broken down into a set of minterms summed together. Although the nested rule may have both "&" and "|" operators, each minterm will have only the "&" operator. For example if r_n is a nested rule, and r_a, r_b, and r_c are simple rules satisfying the relation $r_n = (r_a | r_b) \& r_c$, the nested rule r_n can also be represented as $r_n = (r_a \& r_c) | $ ~~$(r_a \& r_c)$~~$(r_b \& r_c)$. The minterms of the nested rule r_n are thus $(r_a \& r_c)$ and ~~$(r_a \& r_c)$~~$(r_b \& r_c)$. These minterms may be placed in a minterm table or other suitable data structure.